Then & Now

Frances H. Paulette

Part 1 - Poor Little Fellow, He Fell In The John

George [Pete] Scruggs at age 9 months is shown with his mother, Lorraine Ragland Scruggs.

Pete Scruggs at three years of age; such a handsome little fellow!

It was, more or less, a boring afternoon; Grandpa Ragland was resting and Little George (Pete) Scruggs didn't have anything exciting to do. It would be quite a while before his Mama got home from work, so he began looking around as any healthy, curious little boy of about five years of age would do, hoping to find something interesting.

Now, Pete's Grandpa Henry Ragland was known for the exceptionally nice, well-built outdoor toilets that he was able to construct. It so happened he had just completed one out back of the house.....so new that, as yet, it was unused.

As Grandpa rested his weary bones, Pete walked around the front yard, but nothing caught his fancy; then he wandered around back. As soon as he had rounded the corner of the house he spied the big pile of dirt that Grandpa had removed from the John. Grandpa figured did everything just right and when he dug a John it was good and deep.....six feet, to be exact! Away went little Pete to investigate.

Pete walked slowly around the new John with an observant eye but nothing was worth a second glance; maybe the inside would prove to be more interesting. Carefully opening the door, he went inside; it was a nice one! The seat of the new John was so nice and smooth. Then he had an idea. What a nice place to get a little exercise! He could just picture himself muscling up and down; kind of like having his own exercise bar!

Up Little Pete crawled and let himself down, carefully holding on to the sides. He was doing just fine until.....oops! Eown he went, into the deep new John hole; thank goodness it was brand new

In the meantime Grandpa Ragland, refreshed from his rest, missed his little Grandson; he began to look for him. The more he looked, the more disturbed he became because that little boy was the apple of his Grandfather's eye. Pete was nowhere to be found in the front yard; he wasn't in the house. Finally Mr. Ragland went out back hoping for a clue as to where his little grandson had gone; then he headed for the John.

All the time that Grandpa was looking, little Pete was calling, "Grandpa, Grandpa, please help me!" The longer he called, the weaker his voice became. Finally Mr. Ragland neared the toilet and heard a faint cry, but he couldn't seem to locate it. Then, as a last resort, he went inside and looked down. When Pete Scruggs saw his grandfather's face looking down at him through that John hole he cried out, "Grandpa, Grandpa, I love you so very much; please get me out!!"

Grandpa Ragland was a very tall man with long arms; reaching down he gently lifted the little fellow to safety. Pete will never forget the feeling of security he experienced when his Grandpa reached down and rescued him!

Five-year old Pete Scruggs thought that falling in the John was just about the worst thing that could happen to a fellow. Was it Pete?

George (Pete) Scruggs was born on November 29th, 1945 to Lorraine Ragland Scruggs and George Scruggs Sr. in Prince Edward County. He lived there, attending Prince Edward County Schools until they moved to Appomattox in 1949.

Pete was a handsome, robust, 205 pound sixteen-year old when he and his mother had reason to believe the youngster needed to see a doctor; an appointment was made.

The day of the appointment finally came. Pete received a thorough examination and was assured that he did not have the medical problem suspected earlier. There was no sign of rupture but the doctor saw something else and it was destined to drastically change the entire future of Pete Scruggs.

"Young man," the doctor said, "I don't like the looks of that little lump under your eye; I want you to get to a hospital as soon as possible."

At sixteen, when you are as healthy as a horse and eat like one too, you don't take much stock in what a doctor says about a little blood clot under your eye. After all, the only time that Pete was aware of it was when his glasses rubbed against it and caused a bit of discomfort. Pete went out into the waiting room leaving his mother, Lorraine, to talk with the doctor a bit longer.

On the way home, Pete noticed that his mother was unusually quiet, but he thought she was just tired; she was a hard worker.

After the evening meal was over, Lorraine Scruggs, with fear in her heart summoned a smile and said, "Son, you have to go to the hospital in Charlottesville immediately; the arrangements have been made and there will be no putting it off." She did not elaborate, partly because she was praying that the doctor had been wrong in what he suspected and partly because she did not want to worry her young son.

The idea of a hospital stay did not alarm Pete too much; after all, how long could it possibly take to remove the little place under his eye. The doctor, according to his mother, would also look into the fullness on his lip. After all, Pete had complained once about a throbbing sensation in his lip but it hadn't really bothered him.

Upon entering the hospital, Pete Scruggs had to undergo a series of tests, twenty-one days of testing to be exact.

After the days of testing were finally over, the doctor came in and announced to Pete, "Son, we are going to have to remove those little lumps, the one under your eye and the one on your lip, but don't worry, it won't be too bad."

"Well," thought Pete, "we're finally getting somewhere; they are going to get on with the operation after twenty-one days. Maybe I'll soon be out of here."

In the meantime the doctor had carefully explained to Pete's mother what they feared (but felt sure) they would find.

"Mrs. Scruggs," the doctor explained, "I've got to cut your son's face all to pieces or else he will live less than six weeks."

When the doctor finally finished talking with Lorraine Scruggs she sat stunned . . . it seemed like a horrible nightmare: Her good-looking son, strong as a mule, seldom complaining, it just didn't seem possible!

Quietly, Lorraine bowed her head and prayed; first for the strength to keep smiling when she went in to see her son and then that the Lord would grant her strength and courage to face whatever the future held. Little did she know just how much heartache lay ahead. Of one thing she was sure, she would trust God to take care of her needs as they arose. . . He did, and He is doing so today.

Somewhere in that recovery room, Pete Scruggs could hear the sound of voices but they seemed so far away. He was struggling to pull himself out of the stupor that was the aftermath of anesthesia, but it was no use; quickly he would be drawn back into that state of near oblivion. It seemed as though the anesthesia was holding on with clinging fingers, deliberately putting off for a little while longer the ordeal of waking up to the knowledge of what really happened in that operating room.

Next week we will see what Pete Scruggs faced and how he handled it; even when he was lowest, he never lost sight of the fact that God was there and listening to his every prayer. Pete Scruggs did a lot of praying!

Made a "Flying Trip To See Her Grandparents

Melissa Day, 8 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Day of Port Orchard, Seattle, Washington returned to her home last week after an extended visit in the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Day of Route 2, Appomattox.

Melissa, who has flown to visit her grandparents on previous occasions, found this trip to be a bit more exciting: she made the trip alone. Quite a ride across country!

Melissa, flying aboard a United Airlines Jet said she "loves flying and I wasn't scared a bit!"

James Beaty

RECEIVES SUPERIOR CERTIFICATE

James Beaty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beaty, has received the coveted 6-Year Superior Certificate from the Virginia Federation of Music Clubs for performing piano solos in the state festival. He is a student of Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan.

Kinckle Robinson

RECEIVES MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE

Kinckle Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Robinson, has received composer medal and certificate for being named the state representative to the National Competition for his original piano composition in contemporary style. This is the third original composition for Kinckle. He is a student of Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan.

Scott Drinkard

RECEIVES FIRST PLACE

Scott Drinkard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Drinkard, has been named first place winner in the State of Virginia for his piano composition written for the Virginia Federation of Music Clubs. He has received a check from the Federation and a studio certificate. Scott studies piano and organ as well as theory and composition as a student of Mrs. Franklin Vaughan.

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HAPPINESS IS 4-H

By Frank H. Sweet
Extension Agent

We have finally received a supply of the 1978 Pive County Fair Catalogs and we also have some of the entry forms. Most community club 4-H members should have received their Catalogs in the mail by now. If you need a Catalog, please stop by. We will once again be taking fair exhibits to Farmville for our 4-H members and entering exhibits for them in the fair. Let's make an effort to have several exhibits from each 4-H'er.

* * *

The Appomattox 4-H Dress Revue will be held tonight (Thursday) beginning at 7:30 P.M. in the Cafeteria of Appomattox County High School. Approximately forty girls will participate in this year's program which has the theme "Fashion Fever". A committee of 4-H'ers has worked hard in planning the program and everyone is invited to attend. Make your plans to see some exciting fashions.

* * *

It's almost time for reorganization of all 4-H clubs. 4-H members should make sure they re-enroll in 4-H this fall to keep their membership current. Check with us if you're not sure about membership status.

* * *

Several 4-H'ers have asked about new community 4-H clubs in the Spout Spring and Vera areas of the county. All that is needed for a new community club is a group of interested young people and several parents or other adults that will agree to help as adult leaders. It is difficult to have effective community 4-H clubs without adult leaders within the community.

* * *

The Appomattox 4-H Teen Leader Club is planning on a special 4-H Talent Show for the Appomattox Railroad Festival. More details about tryouts will be available next week. All 4-H members will be eligible to participate.

* * *

Don't forget your 4-H projects, they will be due in mid October.

ASCS TODAY

By Tom Conrad

Price Support and Grades Approved for Untied Burley Tobacco - Burley tobacco grade standards and price support regulations were changed August 10 to make grading and price support available for a limited amount of 1978-crop burley that will be sold in untied bales as crop marketing experiment.

Previously, untied burley was classified as "No-G" (No-grade) and was ineligible for government price support.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said the changes are substantially as proposed July 6, and that grade loan rates and grade standards for untied tobacco will be the same as for tied bundles. This is in line with most of the comments received in response to the proposal, Bergland said.

Under the changes, producers interested in marketing untied burley this year may apply in September at the (ASCS) office. These producers must certify that all bales to be delivered for price support and official grading meet the following specifications:

(1) All tobacco in all bales offered for sale as a single lot will be of similar quality.

(2) The tobacco will be stalk-cured.

(3) The bale will not contain foreign matter.

(4) The tobacco will not be nested (nesting is the concealing of foreign material or inferior tobacco inside the bale).

Producers must comply with filed certifications in order to be eligible for grading and price support on baled tobacco and for price support on any tobacco produced on their farms. Warehouse operators will be required to open a representative bale in each lot of tobacco for inspection by a department grader.

Other details concerning price support for untied burley tobacco will be published soon in the Federal Register and will be available at the ASCS office.

ASCS Conducting Wool/Lamb Referendum - ASCS is conducting a referendum August 21 through September 1 for wool and lamb producers to vote for or against a new agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Sheep Producers Council, Inc. (ASPC).

The agreement authorizes USDA to withhold part of any wool incentive payment that might be made to producers on 1978-81 marketings to finance the ASPC's activities. "Deductions would be used by the ASPC to finance advertising and sales promotion program for wool and lamb, and programs to develop and disseminate information on product quality, production management, and marketing improvement for wool and sheep.

If producers approve the agreement, up to 2-½ cents per pound on shorn wool marketings, and 12½ cents per hundred-weight on unshorn lambs, would be deducted.

Copies of the agreement and ballots have been distributed to Appomattox County wool producers. Ballots may be returned by mail or in person to the county ASCS office.

Flue-Cured Marketing Cards - Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Cards are now ready for use. You are asked to stop by the ASCS office to pick up your card(s).

Flue - Cured Redesignation Periods - For those producers that wish to redesignate warehouses in which to sell their 1978 crop the following dates are the redesignation periods.

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1
Oct. 2 - Oct. 6
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3
Nov. 27 - Dec. 1.

Miss Alice Angel

RECEIVES PLAQUE

Miss Alice Angel has received the Sonatina plaque from the National Guild of Piano Teachers for performing five complete Sonatinas from memory at the piano and receiving the required score.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Angel of Lynchburg and a student of Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan.

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